

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during five rollcall votes taken on Thursday, March 17.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 189, 190, and 192, and "no" on rollcalls 191 and 193.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCE LE CONG PHUNG, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of my good friend, His Excellency Le Cong Phung, who in October 2007 was appointed by President Nguyen Minh Triet as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States of America.

Prior to his appointment, the Honorable Le Cong Phung served as the First Deputy Foreign Minister, the second-highest ranking official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during which time he assisted the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister regarding Vietnam's foreign policy.

From 2001–2004, he served as Deputy Foreign Minister and as the Assistant Foreign Minister from 1999–2000. During his 39-year career, Ambassador Le Cong Phung served in foreign posts in England, China, and Indonesia. He was also Vietnam's Ambassador to Thailand.

While in Washington, Ambassador Phung became a key figure in strengthening the U.S.-Vietnam partnership. At the Ambassador's request, it was my privilege to join him, former President Bill Clinton, Senator JOHN KERRY, Senator JOHN MCCAIN and Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell in offering keynote remarks on July 14, 2010 as Vietnam celebrated 15 years of diplomatic relations with the United States.

With the support of Ambassador Phung and in my capacity as the newly elected Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, I returned to Vietnam in 2007 for the first time in 40 years, having previously served at the height of the Tet Offensive in 1967. The visit changed me.

On May 15, 2008, in close cooperation with Ambassador Phung, I held a Subcommittee hearing entitled, "Our Forgotten Responsibility? What Can We Do to Help Victims of Agent Orange?" This was the first time in the history of the U.S. Congress that a hearing had been held on Agent Orange which included our Vietnamese counterparts as witnesses. Two more hearings followed on June 4, 2009 and July 15, 2010, paving the way for

renewed commitment on the part of the U.S. to clean up the mess it left behind.

I am proud of Ambassador Phung and what we have accomplished together. Ambassador Phung has made an indelible mark on furthering U.S.-Vietnam relations and is to be commended for his exemplary service for and on behalf of the government of Vietnam. I am also appreciative of all he has done to promote religious freedom.

On a personal note, I will miss Ambassador Phung, and I extend to him, his wife, Nguyen Thi Nhan, and their two sons my highest regards and well wishes in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING COACH NATALIE RANDOLPH

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Coach Natalie Randolph, the first female boys varsity head football coach at Calvin Coolidge Senior High School in Washington, DC, where she also teaches.

As we commemorate Women's History Month this year, I want to celebrate the coach for becoming the first permanent female boys varsity head football coach in the District of Columbia and the only current female boys varsity head football coach in the nation.

Natalie Randolph, a native Washingtonian, is not only a football coach, she also is a superb athlete. Coach Randolph made her mark with the DC Divas of the Independent Women's Football League. After playing five seasons there, she became an assistant boys varsity football coach at H.D. Woodson Senior High School in the District for two seasons.

In her youth, Natalie nurtured her athletic skills in track and field at Sidwell Friends School and later at the University of Virginia. Her love of football grew after her father first introduced her in high school to women football players.

Natalie began her professional career as an educator, after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Science and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Virginia. She first taught at H.D. Woodson and currently teaches Environmental Science and Biology at Calvin Coolidge.

Calvin Coolidge's winning record of 6–4 in Coach Randolph's debut season vindicated the decision to make her head coach. At the same time, the new coach required mandatory study halls and SAT prep courses to improve the team's academic performance. Coach Randolph is committed to winning, both inside and outside the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Natalie Randolph for her accomplishments as a teacher who encourages strong academic achievement, as a world-class athlete, and as the first permanent female boys varsity head football coach in the District of Columbia. May we wish Coach Randolph and the Calvin Coolidge Senior High School Colts the best on the upcoming season, both on and off the field.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNUAL CESAR CHAVEZ MARCH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 24th anniversary of the naming of Chavez Drive and the fifth annual Cesar Chavez March in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A celebration and fundraiser for the United Farm Workers members was held on March 26th to coincide with what would have been the late Cesar Chavez's 84th birthday.

Born on a family farm, March 31, 1927, Cesar Chavez witnessed firsthand the suffering of migrant workers. When the family lost the farm during the Great Depression, Cesar toiled in the fields following crops across the Southwest. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II he returned to farm work and began his lifelong commitment to justice for migrant workers.

During the 1960s Cesar Chavez, in reaction to the conditions he witnessed in the fields, became a union activist. Adopting the techniques of industrial unions like the UAW, Cesar fought against agribusiness and unfair laws that forbade farm workers from organizing. A nationwide boycott of table grapes and a 25-day hunger strike brought the United Farm Workers international attention. His leadership and personal commitment forced agribusiness to sign the first union contract with the United Farm Workers. He labored to improve the health and safety of the workers. He fought successfully to end the use of harmful chemicals like DDT and benefited not only the workers but the consumers as well.

When Cesar Chavez died in 1993, over 40,000 people attended his funeral. In a show of respect for the man who had changed so many lives, our nation posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Flint Michigan was the first community in our nation to honor this great humanitarian by naming a street after Cesar Chavez. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Cesar Chavez and his legacy to the American people.

IN HONOR OF DONNA PAINTER

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Painter for her dedication and contributions to nephrology nursing and kidney patients in Texas and across the country.

Donna is one of my constituents from Corsicana, Texas and she served as President of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) in 2010 and 2011.

Donna earned her Masters of Science in Health Care Administration from Texas Women's University in Dallas, Texas. She is a Registered Nurse and a Certified Nephrology Nurse.

Donna has worked for Fresenius Medical Care in various positions since 1983. Over the course of her career, she has served as a

staff nurse, a charge nurse, Home Training Coordinator, Director of Nursing, and Clinic Manager. She has also been Regional Quality Manager, and Director of Training and Organizational Development for Fresenius' West Business Unit. Currently, in addition to serving as President of ANNA, Donna is the Regional Vice President for Fresenius' East Texas Region.

Donna has been an active member of ANNA for more than 20 years—serving in a variety of leadership roles. As ANNA President, she has implemented a broad range of initiatives that will continue to improve care for patients whose lives depend on dialysis and other kidney replacement treatments. In particular, she has helped to ensure that ANNA will play a significant role in the nation-wide proliferation of quality improvements and policy in kidney care.

ANNA is one of the largest and most prestigious nursing associations in America. The organization is the recognized leader in nephrology nursing practice, education, research, and advocacy. ANNA's members are registered nurses and health care professionals that care for patients of all ages who are experiencing, or are at risk for, kidney disease.

Please join me in commending Donna Painter for her years of service to ANNA and the patients she cares for in Texas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### GIRLS OF STEEL ROBOTICS TEAM

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Rookie All-Star Award at the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition held on March 12th and 13th.

Because of their hard work and impressive performance, the team has been invited to compete at the F.I.R.S.T. Championship in St. Louis in April. The championship is the final and largest competition of the robotics season and features teams from across the world.

F.I.R.S.T., which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to introducing our youth to the world of science and technology. This year alone, approximately 250,000 students are gaining practical, team-based engineering experiences by participating in F.I.R.S.T.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I think competitions such as these are outstanding tools for getting students interested in careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. I believe our nation's future economic growth and prosperity depends upon getting young people interested and engaged in scientific pursuits, and I want to commend organizations like F.I.R.S.T. for the important work they do in that regard.

The Girls of Steel team is made up of 24 young women from high schools in and around the Pittsburgh area. In their first year of competition, and using a robot they designed and built in only six weeks, the girls

went up against 39 other teams from across the United States and Canada. In this regional competition, teams were challenged to construct robots that could place tubes on elevated pegs. After finishing this first part of the task, the robots were required to deploy smaller robots capable of climbing to the top of a 10-foot pole. Upon reaching the top, the "minibots" would set off sensors to signal completion of the task. The Girls of Steel performed well in the qualification round, and their success continued throughout the seeding and elimination rounds of the competition.

In recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I want to mention each of these inspiring young ladies by name. They are Grace Handler, Calista Frederick-Jaskiewicz, Hallie Goldstein, Nila Ravi, Elizabeth Kysel, Rachel Lischy, Olivia Parks, Bryce Volk, Jaden Barney, Maya Chandrasekaran, Julia DiPietro, Campbell Konrad, Rachel Round, Jordyn Zechender, Naoka Gunawardena, Dakota Calvert, Jeannette Melanie Young, Tayler Wright, Kathryn Hendrickson, Pragna Mannam, Anna Maria Sicenica, Dahee Kim, Zhimi Ding, and Xinchao Li.

I also want to express my appreciation to the Carnegie Mellon University Field Robotics Center, which has mentored the Girls of Steel. As a result of their efforts, more young women are gaining real-world technological experiences which will certainly aid them in the future.

I wish the Girls of Steel the best of luck as they head to St. Louis to compete this April, and I hope for their continual success.

#### STATEMENT OF PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, although present and on the House floor during the legislative day of March 16, 2011, my "no" vote for Rollcall vote No. 186 did not register. Had my vote correctly registered, the record would display a vote of "no."

#### RECOGNIZING MR. LEE E. RHYANT UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate a decade of achievement by an important business leader in our community, Mr. Lee E. Rhyant.

Mr. Rhyant has spent over ten years serving as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company facility in Marietta, Georgia. He successfully led a staff of 8,000 with his clear vision and his ability proved to be great as he built a strong association with the U.S. Air Force and industry leaders in Cobb County and throughout the metro Atlanta region.

He's been recognized for his leadership with numerous honors and awards. He was named one of Georgia's 100 Most Influential People, Executive of the Year by the National Management Association, Citizen of the Year by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce and the Marietta Daily Journal, and Man of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

Mr. Rhyant has taken his success and used it to give back to his community and the 11th District of Georgia. He has served on numerous local and national boards, chaired many major philanthropic events, and has shared his knowledge and experience with youth leadership forums, local schools, and even universities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding citizen and community leader, Mr. Lee Rhyant, and wish him the best of luck as he retires and starts a new chapter.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWMAN CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the parishioners of Newman Chapel United Methodist Church of Kendleton, Texas, on the opening of their new multipurpose worship center. The Center opened this past Sunday, March 27th.

Established in approximately 1872, Newman Chapel was the first Methodist Church organized in the Kendleton. Originally, parishioners met by the San Bernard River under the old oak trees. Services were held at the river until 1874 when the parishioners constructed a log cabin that served as both as a place for worship and a school.

Newman Chapel may have come a long way from its roots in a gathering of believers by the San Bernard River, but what has never changed is the parishioners and staff's commitment to the mission of building a spirit-filled community church of believers. The new worship center will enhance the Church's ability to carry out this mission by providing a more spacious and comfortable location for worship and other traditional church activities. The new multipurpose center will also be used for new ministries and needed services to the all the people of Kendleton. Some of the new programs planned include a Sunday morning breakfast and bible study, a senior daycare center, after school tutorials and programs to provide nutritious food to Kendleton's low-income population.

In conclusion, I once again extend my congratulations to the parishioners and staff of Newman Chapel United Methodist Church on the opening of their new multi-purpose worship center. I am certain all of Newman Chapel's parishioners as well as the community of Kendleton will benefit from the worship center.